

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KINSHA 00091 061354Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 CU-04 NAS-01 PM-04 DODE-00 SP-02

PRS-01 /027 W

-----061421Z 091792 /41

R 061330Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1157

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJA/7-SACD-M//PTO//

UNCLAS KINSHASA 0091

DEPT FOR AF/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SENV

SUBJECT: ORANGUTANS FOR MOBUTU

REFS: (A) STATE 282898; (B) ZAMISH 221300Z NOV 76; (C) ZAMISH

092200Z DEC 76

1. SINCE 1974, THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND THE YERKES REGIONAL PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER OF EMORY UNIVERSITY HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH ZAIRE'S INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC DATA BASED ON EXPERIMENTATION WITH A RARE SPECIES OF DWARF CHIMPANZEE FOUND ONLY IN ZAIRE. THIS ZAIRIAN-AMERICAN COOPERATIVE VENTURE WAS ARRANGED THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY IN ZAIRE.

2. IN ORDER TO EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU, THE YERKES INSTITUTE HAS DECIDED TO DONATE TWO VALUABLE ORANGUTANS TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S PERSONAL ZOO. THE GIFT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE ON THE PRESIDENT'S BEHALF BY THE DIRECTOR OF ZAIRE'S INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES. THE PHYSICAL TRANSFER OF THE ORANGUTANS REMAINS TO BE COMPLETED, HOWEVER. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ORANGUTANS SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO ZAIRE IN A US MILITARY AIRCRAFT

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IN ORDER TO ENSURE PROPER HANDLING AND CARE OF THE LARGE ANIMALS IN TRANSIT. AS IT IS PLANNED FOR AMBASSADOR CUTLER TO PRESENT THE ORANGUTANS TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU AS A SYMBOL OF THE ACTIVE SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN ZAIRE AND THE UNITED STATES, IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT THE ANIMALS BE IN EXCELLENT PHYSICAL CONDITION WHEN THEY ARRIVE. WITH A MILITARY AIRCRAFT, WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT TEMPERATURE CONTROLS, LOADING PROCEDURES, AND TRANSIT

HANDLING WILL BE CONDUCIVE TO GOOD HEALTH IN THE ANIMALS.

3. ACCORDING TO DR. JULIEN ENGEL OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, YERKES INSTITUTE IS WILLING TO PAY TRANSPORT COSTS FOR THE ORANGUTANS. GIVEN THE SYMBOLIC NATURE OF THIS EXCHANGE, IT IS CERTAINLY WITHIN THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ASSIST YERKES IN FINDING THE SAFEST POSSIBLE MEANS OF TRANSFERRING THE ANIMALS.

4. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, FREIGHT TRAFFIC ON PANAM ROUTING IS VERY HEAVY WITH RESULT THAT DEPARTMENT IS OBLIGED SHIP SURFACE TO AIR POUCHES TO AF POSTS VIA AMERICAN CARRIER TO EUROPE AND THEN BY FOREIGN CARRIER TO POSTS. TO ASSURE TIMELY AND SAFE TRANSPORT OF THE GIFT FROM YERKES INSTITUTE, DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO SEEK AUTHORIZATION FROM DOD TO MAKE THIS SHIPMENT BY MAC FLIGHT FROM CHARLESTON TO KINSHASA.
CUTLER

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Message Attributes

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